(b) if so, the total number of widows resettled and the amount spent on this work; and

(c) if not, the number of widows yet to be settled and the reasons for delay in this work?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As a measure of rehabilitation of widows/ next of kin of Kargil Martyrs, they have been paid *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 10 lakhs each and have been sanctioned liberalised family pension equal to the last pay drawn by the deceased soldier on completion of necessary legal requirements. No separate budget provision has been made for resettlement of widows of Kargil martyrs.

The widows of Kargil Martyrs have also been given an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs for housing and Rs. 1 lakh per child or Rs. 2 lakhs per family for education of children from the National Defence Fund.

Upgradation of MIG Bis Aircraft

2469. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sanctioned upgradation of 125 MIG Bis aircraft at a cost of more than Rs. 2000 crores in January, 1996;

(b) whether the upgradation was to have been completed by September, 2001 and whether due to delays the completion has been re-scheduled to March, 2004;

(c) whether due to delays in the upgradation process the Airforce is being compelled to use the ageing MIG Bis aircraft; and

(d) whether the technical life of MIG Bis fleet was required to be extended and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the original plan, the upgradation work was to be completed by December, 2001. Due to delays in the programme, the upgradation work is planned to be completed by the financial year 2004-2005.

(c) The issue of ageing is not directly related to the upgrade of the Aircraft.

(d) Tests are in hand for increasing the technical life of the Aircraft.

Use of Defence Aircraft by Chief Ministers

2470. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government allot Defence Aircraft for use by State Chief Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Kerala use Defence Aircraft; and

(d) if so, the details regarding payment for using the Defence Aircraft, by the Chief Ministers of States?